

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1, 6-16, 46, 49, 55-59, 61, and 64-88 are pending, with claims 1, 46, 61 and 73 being the independent claims. Claim 73 is amended to be more in-line with claims 1, 46, and 61. Claims 75-76 have been cancelled. Support for this amendment is found, at least, in previously submitted claims 1, 46, and 61.

Claim 74 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1, 6-8, 10-14, 15, 16, 46, 49, 55-59, 61, 64-66, 68, 69, 70-73, and 75-88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over GB 164 (Great Britain 1,010,164). Claims 9 and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over GB 164 in view of Duke (US 3,573,072). Claim 74 is rejected U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over GB 164 in view of GB 747 (Great Britain 1,346,747).

Based on the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of the outstanding rejections.

First, with respect to claims 16 and 69, Applicants presume that the anticipatory rejection with respect to these claims [*Office Action of 3/28/08, page 6*] is an oversight and will be withdrawn in view of the withdrawal of the anticipatory rejection of claims 1 and 61.

Second, as noted previously, the values identified for the ranges of the temperatures of the salt bath on page 18 of the specification clearly discloses claim 74 in accordance with the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1. For example, page 18 discloses the bottle temperature can be 540°C and the temperature of the salt bath between 550°C and 750°C. Therefore, the specification properly discloses the features of claim 74. *See also* Applicants' Pre-Appeal Brief Request dated January 7, 2008, at page 3.

Third, Applicants respectfully traverse the obviousness rejection of claims 1, 6-8, 10-14, 15, 16, 46, 49, 55-59, 61, 64-66, 68, 69, 70-73, and 75-88. Of these claims, claims 1, 46, 61, and 73 are independent. Each of claims 1, 46, 61, and 73 now recites that the formed glass article is dipped in a molten salt bath "for about 10 seconds or less." As such, all of the pending claims now include this feature. This feature is neither disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The lowest dipping duration disclosed by the prior art is 15 seconds. *[See also Examiner's comments in the Final Office Action dated July 6, 2007: bottom of page ; Applicants' Response of April 11, 2007: pages 7-8; Applicants' Response of October 2, 2007: paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8; and Applicants' arguments in the Pre-Appeal Brief Request.]* A fair reading of the prior art as whole clearly reveals that this value does not in any way disclose or suggest the range of 10 seconds or less. As a matter of fact, it even teaches away from the claimed range as the prior art range has a lower limit which is 50% larger than the maximum of the claimed range. Thus, the prior art does not disclose or suggest the range of about 10 seconds or less and thus cannot render it obvious.

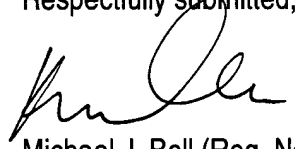
For at least the reasons above, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the pending rejections and pass the application to issue.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

for  60,427
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